

HONORING COUNCILWOMAN
MAXINE PARKER

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Birmingham City Council President Maxine Herring Parker who passed away on Tuesday November 12, 2013. I am deeply saddened by her passing but I am comforted in knowing that her rich legacy of diligent service will live through those she served in Birmingham City Council District 4.

Councilwoman Parker was the epitome of grace, class and firm yet gentle leadership. With her signature flower lapels to accentuate her immaculate appearance, this soft-spoken leader personified womanhood while serving as a great source of strength for her family and her community. In her presence, it was clear, that while she was a warm spirit, Councilwoman Parker was never afraid to fight for what she believed in.

This beloved advocate was first elected to represent Birmingham's District 4 in November 2005. She initially ran on a platform that focused on improving the quality of life for her constituents. But her contributions to the area were boundless. Throughout her eight-year tenure, Councilwoman Parker was best known for her advocacy for environmental justice on behalf of the Collegeville, Harriman Park, and Fairmont neighborhoods.

For decades, citizens in these areas were negatively impacted by industrial pollution. But it was the diligent efforts and leadership of Councilwoman Parker that led to government action. In 2011, as a result of her tireless advocacy, the Environmental Protection Agency began its first major intervention in the area. Today, the EPA continues environmental cleanup efforts in the area as a result of Councilwoman Parker's efforts to raise awareness on the environmental injustice suffered by her constituents.

Councilwoman Parker went on to receive national recognition for her work and the project was even referenced as an example of successful government and community partnerships at a national conference. In July she served as a presenter at the EPA's Community Involvement Training conference in Boston where she shared her story about the federal environmental cleanup project in her district.

Shortly before her untimely death, Councilwoman Parker was elected as Birmingham City Council President as she began her third term. Prior to her election to the council, she served for many years as Collegeville neighborhood president. She also served as the executive assistant to the President at Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama for 41 years. During her tenure at the college, she served under the administration of six presidents.

On behalf of our Nation and the residents of North Birmingham, I am honored to pay tribute to the life of this phenomenal woman. She was indeed one of the most passionate community servants of her time. Councilwoman Parker had a heart for the people and a courageous spirit that dared to believe in the power of fighting for what we believe in. Let us all commit to continuing her legacy by inher-

iting her sincere passion for caring for the needs of others. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Birmingham City Council President Maxine Herring Parker.

HONORING STATE
REPRESENTATIVE PHYLLIS POND

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my friend and colleague Congresswoman JACKIE WALORSKI, to pay tribute to State Representative Phyllis Pond of New Haven, Indiana. Rep. Pond was an outstanding Hoosier who represented both her district and Indiana with integrity, and sadly passed away on September 22, 2013 at the age of 82.

Rep. Pond began her service to our great state in 1978 when she was first elected to the Indiana General Assembly. A lifelong Hoosier who grew up on a farm and graduated from Warren High School, Ball State University, and Indiana State University, Rep. Pond was the longest-serving female state representative in the history of Indiana. She was also the first woman to earn her seat in the prestigious front row of the Statehouse Chamber. We, the female Members of the Indiana Congressional delegation, are especially grateful for her leadership and guidance that has helped shape our own careers in public service.

As members of the House Education and the Workforce and Armed Services Committees, we honor Rep. Pond for her outstanding work for both Hoosier students and servicemembers. As a former kindergarten teacher who taught students for 37 years, Rep. Pond worked tirelessly to ensure that our state's students received the best education and had access to exceptional opportunities.

Thanks to Rep. Pond, Hoosier K-3 classrooms have no more than eighteen students, creating a healthy learning environment where students receive the attention they need to excel in school. Rep. Pond strongly believed in recognizing our servicemembers and their families. During the holiday season, she was well known for sending cards and words of encouragement to Indiana's finest. Rep. Pond also sponsored legislation to give soldiers on active duty more time with their children.

We are proud that such an exceptional public servant, teacher, and stateswoman called the Hoosier State home, and we are honored to recognize her life's work today. Our deepest condolences and well wishes go out to George Pond, her husband of 62 years; her children, Douglas Pond of Indianapolis, Dr. William Pond of Fort Wayne, and Jean Grasmick of Zionsville; grandchildren, Greg and Scott Pond, Joel Aiken, and Jennifer Knepp; and great grandchildren, Beatrice, Walker, and Eleanore. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

SUPPORT FOR THE EXPANSION OF
MEDICAID COVERAGE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opportunity that my home state of Texas lost when it opted out of expanding Medicaid. Denying health care coverage to seniors, veterans, and low-income residents is unconscionable.

Texas has the most uninsured residents among the 24 states that refuse to expand Medicaid. At very little cost to the state itself, 1.5 million uninsured people could have health insurance coverage by now. However, Governor Rick Perry's refusal to expand Medicaid to 133 percent of the federal poverty line ultimately hurts our most vulnerable citizens.

Another adverse effect of choosing not to expand Medicaid falls on our neediest hospitals. Because of reductions in payments to safety-net hospitals, or disproportionate share hospitals (DSH), low-income patients suffer reduced access to care. With these reductions to hospitals, refusals to expand Medicaid, and cuts to Medicare subsidies, we are exposing our most susceptible patients to incredible risk.

If expanded in Texas, the Affordable Care Act would fully fund each state's coverage for the first three years. Over time, the federal government would continue to pay for no less than 90 percent of coverage for newly eligible individuals. This increase in spending is partially offset by the DSH payment reduction. However, in states that do not expand Medicaid, low-income residents who seek treatment at safety-net hospitals suffer.

Our veterans, seniors, and low-income residents are forced to miss the opportunity to have quality and affordable health insurance simply because of political posturing. I urge my colleagues and each state to support the expansion of Medicaid.

HONORING ANTHONY JONES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Anthony Jones. Anthony is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 59, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Anthony has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Anthony has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 40 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Anthony has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Anthony Jones for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.